



Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan

Summary of responses received to Regulation 16 publicity period

Canal & Rivers Trust	As the Trust does not own or maintain any assets within the plan areas we have no comments to make and may be removed from further consultations.
National Grid	An assessment has been carried out with respect to National Grid's electricity and gas transmission assets which include high voltage electricity assets and high-pressure gas pipelines. National Grid has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.
Natural England	Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.
Historic England	Policy H2. We support the requirements to protect the setting of the Grade II* listed building of St Peter's Church and the sensible design parameters set out in the policy to guide proposals to deliver a development with a design that enables views of the church to be enjoyed and of materials that will complement the character of the village and create an attractive entrance to it. We do ask the examiner to consider whether the mitigation for potential harm is sufficient and whether the need to avoid or minimise harm to the significance of this Grade II* heritage asset has been given sufficient weight in considering its suitability in comparison to sites with less potential for harm to heritage assets. If it is not clear that the site has advantages over others such as (for example) Site AH6 Land to the West of Elm Hall Farm, can it truly be said to promote sustainable development? Given the identified potential for harm to the designated heritage asset and the potential to place this development elsewhere to avoid that harm we feel that this allocation is insufficiently well justified at present or that the alternatives have been not been fully explored.
Luke Bacon	I am a resident of Astwood and am writing to communicate my strong support for the draft NHP that has recently been published by Milton Keynes Council in under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. The Neighbourhood Plan is clearly compliant with all relevant local and national policies, as confirmed by the Basic Conditions Statement. The Neighbourhood Plan Committee (under Astwood and Hardmead Parish Council) have worked extremely hard to create this plan and have listened to residents' views at every stage. They have undertaken a full and detailed public consultation and provided clear evidence that the process has been conducted transparently and in accordance with all relevant legislation.

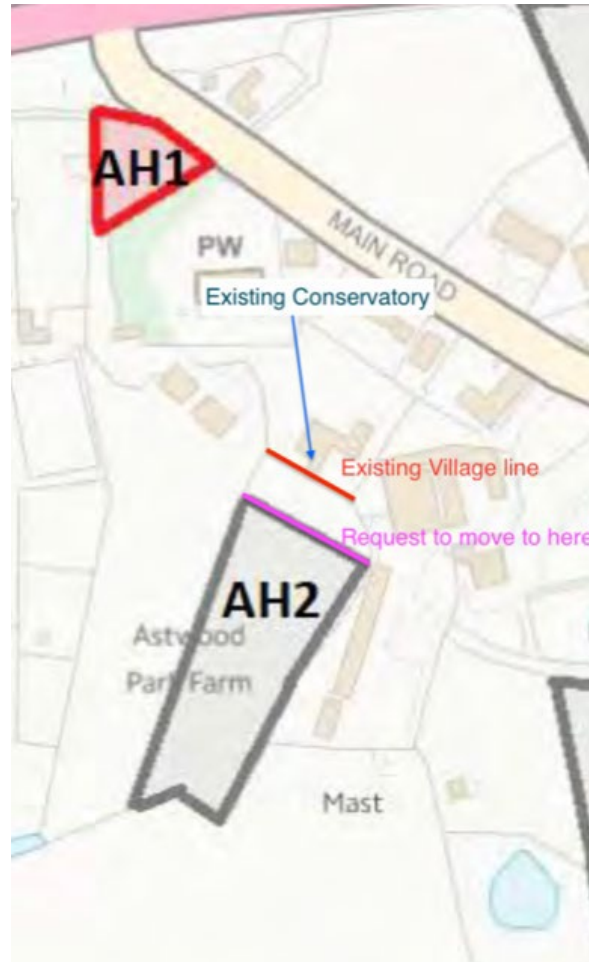
	<p>I am fully supportive of the Neighbourhood Plan as published and will certainly vote for it when it comes to referendum. It is regrettable (but no fault of residents or the Parish Council) that the plan process has been delayed due to COVID-19 and so it is all the more important that this plan now moves at pace through the remainder of the administrative process. I know that many residents of the village share our views and are 'itching' to get this to referendum so that we can formally confirm our support by voting for it.</p> <p>There is no question that this plan enjoys broad support from residents (and rightly so).</p> <p>Much of the undeveloped land around Astwood and Hardmead is owned by a small number of local landowners (some of whom do not live in the villages). This plan will provide residents and the Parish Council with much-needed grounds for greater influence in the scale and pace of development in this very rural area.</p> <p>It is regrettable that, over the past year (and in particular since this Plan was first published in draft form) Astwood and Hardmead has seen a rapid succession of significant planning applications from landowners seeking to 'capitalise' on the delays to the Neighbourhood Plan process caused by COVID-19. The approval of any single one of these applications would represent significant and unjustified intensification of the currently undeveloped open countryside around the village (and a number of new dwellings far in excess of that allowed for by this plan, in accordance with local and national guidance). The Neighbourhood Plan would provide the village and its residents with a degree of protection against this, which is another reason I am so strongly supportive of it.</p>
Keith Watson	<p>I would just like to add my thoughts about the Neighbourhood plan for Astwood.</p> <p>Development in the locality seems to be rife now (Cranfield and the new proposal South of Newport Pagnell show houses erupting here there and everywhere) but without the relevant infrastructure I can see this leading to real problems in the future. Already the drains are overflowing with excess run off water, the doctors are asking clients to change surgeries as a new influx of 'locals' pushes out people that were welcomed 6 years ago and so it goes on.</p> <p>Having sensible and sustainable development, in keeping with the village that Astwood is, is in my belief absolutely crucial and this is why I have been a strong supporter of the work that has gone into the plan so far.</p> <p>Of course change is necessary, but we need change that works, not a change that further adds to existing problems.</p> <p>For this reason I fully back the plan which allows for sensible and methodical building work to be sympathetically inserted within the village.</p>
Doug & Sue Smith	<p>We wish it to known that we strongly agree to the Neighbourhood Plan being adopted. Also, we strongly object to any planning proposals within the villages of Astwood and Hardmead, other than those supported and agreed by the residents of the villages as set out in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>

Stephen Thomas	<p>Under the Regulation 16 process, I believe the draft plan is in line with the Basic Conditions as referred to in the Basic Conditions Statement. I believe it is representative of the majority view following the pre-submission consultation surveys received by the Steering Group. I am supportive of the draft plan.</p>
Jackie Eley	<p>I am writing to give my opinion on the Neighbourhood Plan for Astwood and Hardmead Parish. I have lived in the village all my life and really feel strongly that the villages need to stay as a village and not become overcrowded. Having a NHP helps us to protect what GREEN we have left and also allows the villages to try and limit the number of houses built over the years. Of course, I understand the population is growing continuously and houses do need to be built but at the same time we need to be able to have some say on what is allowed to be built in the village and where.</p> <p>When you have a NHP I feel this tries to protect what we have and to stop someone coming in and allowing huge number of houses to be built without a say, this way it gives people freedom of speech and try to look after what we have, such as, wildlife, conservation areas and keep the village as a village, having a NHP this helps towards the decisions which are made and give locals a chance to have their say, which is a very important part of a village.</p> <p>THE PLAN IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR PARISH</p>
Phillip Barrett	<p>Having been a resident of Astwood for over 20 years and seen it almost double in size over that period, I fully support the findings of the Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan. The character and feeling of the parish could so easily be lost by unsympathetic and over development. We need to protect our rural villages and country side and I feel that the Astwood and Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan does this and supports the views of the majority of the parish's residents. I feel very positive about the plan and look forward to it being put forward to a local referendum.</p>
Tracy Wright	<p>I have been a resident in Astwood for 21 years now and 22 new homes have been built here in that time. The character of the village would be changed forever if more development took place. We are a small rural community with limited amenities. More housing built here will create a greater need for private car travel as there is very little public transport available, increasing pollution at a time when our Government pledges to reduce carbon emissions by 78% by the year 2035.</p> <p>Loss of green spaces here, which are important habitats increases pressure on our environment. Astwood & Hardmead are surrounded by a vast arable mono culture of farm land, featureless & devoid of much wildlife & a serious loss of biodiversity. Our villages are fast becoming an urban sprawl detrimental to the wellbeing of humans & our flora & fauna.</p> <p>I strongly support this neighbourhood plan which reflects the views of the majority of residents in Astwood & Hardmead.</p>
Derek Chapman	<p>I would just like to note my support for the Astwood and Hardmead neighbourhood plan submitted by our Parish Council.</p> <p>The report was submitted with a lot of input from residents and totally reflects our views on the situation.</p>

Abhishake and Sheeba Gulati

I am seeking to include in the Neighbourhood Plan to move the village boundary to the existing fence line for my property. I do not wish to cause any harm to the village but am merely wanting to increase the size of my conservatory.

Furthermore I would like to state that the reason for raising this item is that I have viewed the documents published and noticed that the extent of the land noted as AH2, which has been discounted as a windfall site is also on this fence line.



Representation Received after publicity period

Pauline Mitchelmore

I would like to register my support for the proposed neighbourhood plan as a true reflection of the wishes of the residents.

It has been evident that during the time of the pandemic and the consequent delay in gaining approval of the plan, landowners have attempted to capitalise on increasing the developments within our small community. Knowing full well, that despite numerous objections and consequent appeals, the strength of feeling is as strong as ever and the Neighbourhood Plan will go a long way to safeguard the future of the village.

The volunteers have dedicated an extraordinary amount of time in creating this plan and have been exemplary in their efforts to reflect and deliver our wishes.

Once again, I fully support and welcome the plan.